

Abstract of the Invention

Method and system for conserving power used by a radiotelephone backlight. When at least one of a selected group of radiotelephone functions is presently in use and the ambient light intensity ALI at the radiotelephone is less than a reference value ALI(ref), the backlight is powered to a selected power level for a selected timeout interval. Where the ALI value is at least equal to the ALI(ref) value, or where none of the selected functions is presently in use, at the end of the timeout interval, power for the backlight is withdrawn. The ALI(ref) value and/or the selected backlight power level are optionally adjustable according to at least one of a difference, $ALI(ref) - ALI$, and a ratio, $ALI/ALI(ref)$. The ALI(ref) value and/or selected backlight power level are optionally adjustable for an individual user's requirements.

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